to recall what the reading is of. When the plates have been prepared for publication the figure number is entered in the square opposite the reading. When the cell has been photographed this information is also placed here with the number of the photo-

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Fig. 2

graph. With these records should the plates be lost or when the original of a figure is to be examined the location on the slide may readily be found.

With the records on these cards before him the investigator has all his data well in hand for the preparation of his paper.

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A MINIATURE DARK ROOM FOR USE WITH THE MICROSCOPE

All microscopists prefer to work either at night or in a darkened room. Using the microscope under such conditions does away with the strain to which both the observing and the unused eye are subjected by the side light—i. e., light coming from sources other than through the tube. When working in darkened surroundings the effect is that of looking at a picture on a screen. The image appears brighter and objects become clear that under the usual conditions are scarcely visible.

For several years the writer has been trying to devise some method to control the light perfectly and to do this without necessitating the darkening the whole room. It is desirable that any apparatus for the purpose should weigh little and (for ease in carrying from one place to another), it should be simple to take apart. It should, of course, be adaptable to every condition. For further convenience of the worker definite places should be present in such an apparatus for the usual microscopical accessories—pens, pencils, drawing and memorandum cards and lens paper.

The following description is of a miniature dark room for use with the microscope fulfilling these requirements. It was designed and made by the writer last fall and, after a year's use, he has found it to be exceedingly practical in eliminating all the strain that results when the eye is unshielded. In this darkened enclosure the eye not in use is at perfect rest. Moreover for drawing the light may be controlled so that it is possible always to have light of the same intensity directed on the drawing paper.

Description

Figure 1.

- A. Base—1/4-inch white pine 12x18 inches with a binder of the same wood across each end to prevent warping.
- B. Uprights—dowel sticks 1 inch in diameter cut to 18 inches in length.
- C-C'. Rods—common telescoping curtain rods. Each of the rods C' is cut 8 inches from the end that ordinarily would be used to fasten it to the window. C is formed of the remainder, of the part between the ends.
- D. Wire—a piece of annealed wire ½ inch in diameter about 4½ feet long bent as shown.

To assemble:—one two inch screw fastens each upright to the base. The upright on the right can be seen to have two angle irons aiding in its support but this is only necessary when the fan is

added. Holes are drilled in both uprights to correspond to the diameter of C which is inserted in them. The rods C' are attached by one end to the tops of the uprights by a screw through the eyelet in the rod. Through the eyelet at the opposite end a small rod is passed as shown to prevent the curtains from slipping off. The wire D is fastened to the outer sides of the uprights by means of a single round head screw passed through each flattened end. All the wood and metal work is painted a dead black.

For many valuable suggestions on the design of the curtains and for the excellence of their construction I am indebted to my mother. (See figure 2).

The curtains suspended from the rods C and C' are in four parts, all overlapping each other and fastening together with spring snaps. They are made of the heaviest grade of black sateen doubled. On the right hand curtain are pockets for pencils and cards. On the left side is a pocket for lens paper. The pocket is provided with a flap to exclude the dust. The upper curtain carried on the wire D is of single thickness. The central curtain is in two parts so that they may be separated to permit light to fall on the drawing board. The left hand curtain of the central set has a rectangle 1 inch wide by 5 inches high cut from the center of the basal portion. Across the top of this aperture is stitched a flap of double thickness, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. To one corner of the loose end of the flap is attached a tape which passes around the tube of the microscope and fastens to the other corner of the flap by means of a spring snap.

With the microscope surrounded by these curtains it is impossible to read the figures on the mechanical stage and so the small light (fig. 1 E) was installed. This can be adjusted by means of sliding rods locked with winged nuts to hang directly over the stage. The lamp arm is attached to the right hand upright by means of a collar made of two pieces of brass stripping fastened on either side of the pillar with a thumb screw. The lamp is a small tungsten bulb set in a porcelain socket. The shade or reflector, shown in the photograph, was taken from an old tubular flash light. A small three-cell pocket battery furnishes the current which is

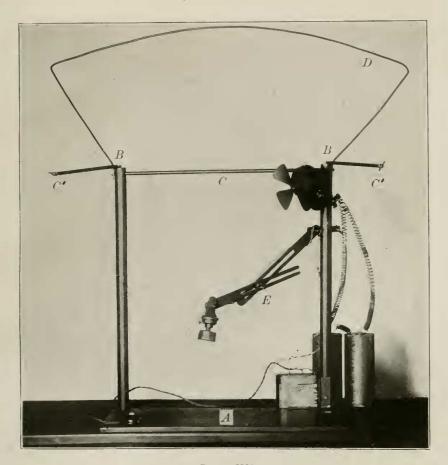


PLATE XII



PLATE XIII